GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2108
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Virology Institution
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during outbreak of new or unidentified virus, the samples are required to be sent to National Institute of Virology, Pune, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up Virology Institutes in all the States, including Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these institutes will be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune is the apex laboratory in the country for diagnosis of viral infections. All samples of suspected unknown or new viruses, are referred to NIV for identification and diagnosis.

NIV's pre-emptive preparedness to handle viral infections/outbreaks in the country has helped handle threat or actual viral epidemic due to highly pathogenic viruses like Ebola, Kyasanur Forest Disease, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic fever, MERS-CoV, Zika, Yellow fever, etc. NIV, Pune trained a total of 13 BSL-3 laboratories across the country and also provided reagents and kits for diagnosis of Ebola in 2014. Further, 13 laboratories were trained in February, 2016 to diagnose Zika virus and 6 laboratories were trained in April, 2016 for testing Yellow fever virus.

(b) to (d): There is no proposal at present to set up Virology Institutes in the States, including Gujarat.

Under the scheme "Establishment of a network of laboratories for managing epidemics and natural calamities" of Department of Health Research, three-tier network of laboratories are beings set up in the country. In the State of Gujarat, one State level Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) and seven Medical College level laboratories are proposed to be established.
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